WEB BUYER

THE BEST SITES FOR ONLINE SHOPPING • BY KEVIN SAVETZ

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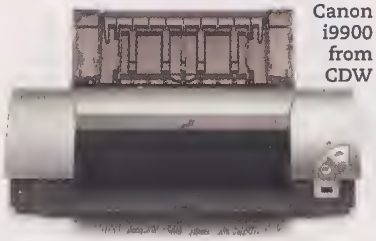
>>TECH PRODUCTS



Canon i9900 from CDW

altex.com
With a big dose of Texan pride, **Altex Electronics** has corralled a huge inventory of computer and networking gear. Mosey over to the Power Accessories section for line conditioners, power supplies, and uninterruptible power supplies.

amazon.com
Amazon.com is an unparalleled superstore with a massive inventory equaled only by its special features, such as personalized product recommendations and mobile access. The Early Adopter Products pages show what's fresh in electronics, video games, and DVDs.

bestbuy.com
Our readers voted **Best Buy** their favorite place to buy peripherals, handhelds, and storage. The selection in each department is comprehensive and impressive. The best part? You can have your gadget delivered or pick it up at a nearby store.

bhphotovideo.com
In business for more than 30 years, **B&H Photo-Video-Pro Audio** sells digital and film cameras, computers, peripherals, and professional audio equipment. Real-time online assistance and a generous return policy make shopping painless. Check the Open Box Specials and Used Equipment areas for unique deals.

big008.com
Big008.com sells a staggering variety of tower, MicroATX, midtower, and minitower cases from Lian Li, Thermaltake, and other manufacturers. You'll find high-tech front-panel displays and tricked-out power supplies in the Case Accessories section.

buy.com
Buy.com's vast million-product inventory includes computer hardware, software, electronics, video games, books, music, and DVDs. Sister site BuyMusic.com delivers music downloads starting at 79 cents a song.

buydig.com
A site for spades and trowels? No, **WorldWide Direct** sells digital tools and toys, including digital cameras, fax machines, PDAs, DVD players, and video-capture devices.

www.cablemax.com
In addition to a substantial variety of computer and networking cables—which the company manufactures itself—**CableMax** sells surge-protection devices, add-on PC cards, electronics tools, and test equipment.

cablestogo.com
The mammoth selection at **Cables To Go** includes esoteric system-specific cables, PDA and cell-phone cables, and rounded cables for improved PC cooling. Use the configurator to create cables for your special needs, and plug into the Connector Guide for help identifying a strange cable or port.

caplinktech.com
Stocked with hard drives, motherboards, and CPUs, **CapLink Technology** can be a system builder's dream come true. The selection is small, but the prices are low and customers leave happy. Shipping is free on orders of $300 or more.

cdw.com
In addition to a wide selection of hardware and peripherals, **CDW** offers an Outlet section where you'll find deals on clearance merchandise and customer returns. Click the Mac Warehouse tab to reveal a medley of Apple hardware and peripherals.

circuitcity.com
Plug in to **Circuit City,** where you can choose from a quarter million movies, video games, and CDs. The inventory also includes digital cameras, flat-panel televisions, and PDAs, which you can have delivered or ready for pickup.

clubmac.com
Love Macs? Join the club. The selection of Apple hardware and software at **ClubMac** is hard to beat. Click the category tabs to zoom in on a nice selection of add-ons, or check the Blowout Deals page for discounts on open-box and refurbished items.

compusa.com
The well-organized **CompUSA** rounds out the usual selection of PC hardware, peripherals, and accessories with areas devoted to home electronics and wireless gadgets. Set your own price on PCs at CompUSA's auction site.

computers.ebay.com
eBay is an unparalleled auction site and a unique shopping experience. Shoppers can set their own price on components, including new and used PCs, software, tech books, and vintage computers.

computersecurity.com
Make sure your computer and data stay right where they belong. **Computer Security Products'** PC-protection gear includes steel cables, stealth tracking and recovery software, and disk-drive locks.

computers4sure.com
At **Computers4Sure,** you'll find 21 departments well-stocked with a broad spectrum of products, including networking gear, PDAs, and scanners. Bargain hounds can quickly sniff out deals on the Clearance pages.

consumer-direct.com
A dazzling world of high-definition video and surround-sound audio awaits you at **Consumer Direct Warehouse.** The catalog includes DVD players, speakers, and stereo systems, as well as surge protectors to keep them safe from power glitches.

crucial.com
One of the largest providers of memory upgrades on the Web, **Crucial Technology** offers RAM for more than 20,000 computers, servers, and electronic devices. Crucial also sells speedy graphics cards and six types of flash-storage media. Shipping is free on orders over $40.

dalco.com
Dalco Electronics stocks everything from motherboards to monitors. Bargain hunters will want to start with the specials listed on the home page, which change regularly. But watch out for the 20 percent restocking fee.

SHOPPING RESOURCES

consumersearch.com
ConsumerSearch assembles reviews for a vast array of products from major print and online publications. The site also analyzes and ranks those reviews. You'll find review summaries for PCs, consumer electronics, home appliances, and many other items.

dealnews.com
Deal yourself in! Updated daily, **Dealnews** is a fantastic buyer's guide that reports on specials in various Web stores. Check out sister site Dealmac for Apple gotta-haves, and Dealram for memory deals.

notebookreview.com
Be sure to visit **NotebookReview.com** before buying your next laptop: Find a model with ideal specs, and the site will deliver links to media and user reviews, along with price comparisons.

pdabuyersguide.com
PDA Buyer's Guide delivers thorough, unbiased reviews of handhelds, POA phones, software, and accessories. Find out what's good and what's not so good in each model, and ask questions in the discussion forum.

planetfeedback.com/consumer
Want to send a gripe (or even a compliment) to a retailer? **PlanetFeedback.com** will help you be heard by turning your thoughts into a nicely formatted business letter you can customize and send to any of 20,000-plus businesses.

pricegrabber.com
Make sure you pay the least amount possible for your tech stuff. **PriceGrabber.com** shows prices, with tax and shipping charges included, for computers, software, electronics, video games, office products, and much more. The Merchant Ratings tab will tell you if a seller is trustworthy.

resellerratings.com
ResellerRatings.com collects shoppers' opinions from almost 6,000 online tech stores. Each merchant is ranked on a scale from zero to 10. For more details about a site's service, read other customers' shopping tales or horror stories.

dbuys.com

Dbuys.com shoppers get to choose from a first-rate selection of digital video cameras, plus LCD and plasma televisions, digicams, and DVD players.

GAMING HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE

chipsbits.com

No matter your gaming-platform preference, **Chips & Bits** has got games for you. You'll find PC, PS2, Xbox, and GameCube titles, a few titles for older consoles, and—for some unplugged fun—a large selection of RPG board and card games.

firingsquad.com

FiringSquad, "home of the hard-core gamer," is sure to fire up your jones for gaming. Features include downloadable games and demos, hardware reviews, and discussion forums. Check out the Optimization Guides for tips on coaxing the best performance from your favorite PC games.

gamesondemand.yahoo.com

You can play full-version commercial games without a CD-ROM with **Yahoo Games on Demand.** Armed with a broadband connection, you can have unlimited play for $14.95 a month ($34.95 for three months), or choose three games for $9.95 a month. Check out game reviews, previews, and news at Yahoo Games Domain (**gamesdomain.yahoo.com**).

overdrivepc.com

Specializing in systems for gamers, by gamers, **Overdrive PC** constructs custom-built 64-bit AMD scream machines with cutting-edge options like overclocking and water cooling. The community-oriented site includes message boards, popular public game servers, and online support.

tronixweb.com

Tired of playing the same warmed-over console games? **Tronix** sells Japanese-import software and accessories for your favorite game platforms, so you can be the only kid (or grown-up) on the block with hard-to-find imported games.

zeuspc.com

ZeusPC builds machines coveted for their power, looks, and value. The Hurricane, Tornado, and Tsunami models are stylish towers. The Thunderstorm packs gaming goodness into a portable form factor.

digitalfotoclub.com

Smile for the cameras. **Digital Foto Discount Club** has a stimulating selection of digital cameras and camcorders, PDAs, and personal audio gadgetry, and is well regarded by its customers.

ecost.com

Look to **eCost.com** for deals on PC components, software, electronics, and DVDs, with free shipping on orders over $25. You'll be enticed by short-lived but sweet deals in the Bargain Countdown area.

emicrox.com

MicroX-Press will x-cite you with an x-pansive catalog of 60,000-plus hardware and software products. Visit the Systems section to piece together a custom-configured desktop, workstation, server, or rack-mountable PC.

ewaggle.com

Yes, **eWaggle.com** has a silly name, but it also has deals on all types of components, most with a 30-day money-back guarantee. Look for the tiny truck icon, which means shipping is free on that product.

frozencpu.com

Focused on PC cooling and case modifications, **FrozenCPU.com** will delight tinkerers and overclockers alike. The catalog of freakishly cool accessories includes transparent PC power supplies, LED-illuminated fans, and modified cases.

harddrive.com

Don't be fooled by the name: **HardDrive.com** sells more than just storage. It also has an extensive selection of motherboards, cases, controller cards, and other components for system builders. The e-mail-notification function will tell you when the price of a coveted item falls.

insight.com

Insight delivers IT products for businesses, including networking hardware, projectors, and servers. Check the weekly Tech Buys page for deals on notebooks, printers, and networking products for the office.

jdr.com

JDR Computer Products stocks a decent selection of PC hardware and accessories, all at reasonable prices. In the electronics section, tinkerers will find electronic components and kits, integrated circuits, and technical reference books.

jncs.com

J&N Computer Services specializes in pretested motherboard/CPU/memory bundles—with an abundance of options for creating your perfect PC. In addition, the site sells bare-bones PCs and a smallish selection of peripherals and accessories.

jr.com

Hardware, software, home-office products, and appliances abound at **J&R Electronics,** a mainstay in New York for 33 years. The online home of the retail store specializes in cameras, both digital and film.

kvm-switches-online.com

Let your monitor, keyboard, and mouse share more than one PC. **KVM Switches Online** is dedicated to keyboard-video-mouse switches. The selection includes models for home, office, and multiple users. You'll also find video splitters and rack-mountable LCD monitors.

laptoptravel.com

If you tote a computer wherever you go, take a trip to **Laptop Travel,** a site that specializes in portable-computing and international-travel gear. You'll find cases, electrical adapters, modem converters, mobile desks, and security accessories.

lik-sang.com

So you think you've seen all the gaming gear there is? You haven't been to **Lik-Sang.com,** an importer of video-game accessories from around the world. You'll discover mod kits for game consoles, hard-to-find imported games, and unusual controllers.

livewarehouse.com

Liven up your PC with a new peripheral from **LiveWarehouse.** You'll find a moderate selection of new components and peripherals, including plenty of optical drives and input devices.

mcglen.com

McGlen Micro sells a full complement of PC peripherals. When you custom-configure a motherboard, CPU, and memory bundle, technicians will assemble and test your creation, and warrant it for two years.

memman.com

Memory Man sells nothing but memory, all with a lifetime warranty. The memory configurator will point you to the chips that will work with your PC, with guaranteed compatibility.

memorysuppliers.com

MemorySuppliers.com's customer-friendly policies include $4.95 flat-rate shipping, a 30-day money-back guarantee with free return shipping, and lifetime warranties. The Memory Guides show how to install RAM and troubleshoot common memory problems.

monitorsdirect.com

MonitorsDirect specializes in Cornerstone, Hitachi, and Planar monitors, sold factory-direct. Extensive specifications, data sheets, and comparison tools will help you find the perfect display. Three- and five-year extended warranties are available.

mwave.com

Mwave.com sells a multitude of hardware products. The Top 10 Sellers and New Products pages bestow quick links to hot items. Check the Blow Out Specials for deals on as-is, refurbished hardware.

neutronexpress.com

You may get a charge out of shopping at **NeutronExpress.com,** where you'll find a dense nucleus of PC peripherals and networking hardware. Visit the Specialty sections for black PC components, plus low-profile and cordless peripherals.

newegg.com

Newegg.com is a nest of good stuff for do-it-yourself PC upgraders. The selection focuses on hard drives, motherboards, CPUs, and optical-storage add-ons.

Iomega Rev from Newegg.com

outpost.com

Shoppers at **Fry's Outpost.com** enjoy an ample catalog of hardware, software, cameras, and video games. Notable features include the Power Search function, special deals, and a 30-day money-back guarantee on most products.

pcliquidator.com

The getting's good at **PC Liquidator,** where the inventory is always changing and prices are always low. You might choose a "bit abused" Pentium II

PC for $29.99 or a 2GB hard drive for under $10. Check the Dollar Bin for ultracheap software and parts.

pcmall.com
Catering to consumers and businesses of all sizes, **PC Mall Sales'** catalog includes more than 100,000 products, with hot deals on notebooks and digital media. Sister site MacMall is devoted to Apple hardware and software.

radioshack.com
RadioShack will tempt you with gadgets galore, including electronics kits, DVD players, high-tech phones, and walkie-talkies. Thousands of product manuals are available online, too.

store.palmone.com
Put a personal digital assistant in your hand at the Palm Store, where **PalmOne** sells its popular Tungsten and Zire PDAs, plus software, accessories, and replacement parts. Visit the Factory Outlet for deals on refurbished and open-box models.

styluscentral.com
Use your mobile devices in style. **StylusCentral.com** has a large selection of POA styli, cases, and chargers, plus a complete line of accessories for the Apple iPod digital music player. You can have your initials engraved on many items for free.

tigerdirect.com
When you're looking for deals and discounts, look to **Tiger Direct.** This sizable catalog includes low-cost PC components, PDAs, and office equipment. Geeks on a budget can find desktop PCs for as little as $250, and laptops under $500.

unityelectronics.com
You may feel like one with the universe after browsing **Unity Electronics'** selection of PC peripherals. You'll also find new and refurbished hard drives, optical drives, and LCD monitors.

usbstuff.com
Looking for gadgets to plug into your Universal Serial Bus-equipped computer? **USB Stuff** has it all, including Webcams, CD-RW drives, printer adapters, and input devices. You'll also find USB microscopes, a terabyte hard drive, and other remarkable peripherals.

zones.com
There's a zone for whatever you need at **Zones:** the home page for hardware and software, the Mac Zone for Apple stuff, the Creative Pro page for graphics professionals, and Zones Clearance for special buys.

>> DIRECT PC VENDORS

abspc.com
Expect gaming, multimedia, and business PCs aplenty at **ABS Computer Technologies.** The company offers a choice of Intel or AMD processors, a three-year parts and lifetime labor warranty, and toll-free technical support. Every system includes a 30-day money-back guarantee.

alienware.com
Alienware can custom-build your dream game machine—desktop or laptop. Each is available with out-of-this-world cases in a rainbow of colors. Buyers get a personalized owner's manual and toll-free technical support any time of the day or night.

buympc.com
MPC Computers sells desktops, notebooks, and servers. You can custom-configure a high-performance Millennia desktop, tuned to your specifications, for business, multimedia, or gaming.

MPC's ClientPro 545

cyberpowersystem.com
Power up with a customized Intel or AMD system from **Cyberpower.** The selection includes cutting-edge 64-bit machines, gamers' dream systems, Media Centers, and budget PCs for everyday use.

dell.com
Dell's electronic storefront has always led the way in ease of use. The site is jam-packed with detailed information that makes it a snap to match a machine to your needs. Each system is configurable to the nth degree, and you can get quick access to online support customized for your PC.

falcon-nw.com
Once you get your talons on a **Falcon Northwest** PC, you won't want to let go. The heavyweight desktops and totable FragBox computers include the hardware you want, the way-cool look you crave, and the personalized system-rescue discs you may one day need.

gateway.com
One of the biggest players in online computer sales, **Gateway** has an enormous and informative site that sells custom-built desktops and notebooks and ships them for free. For your living room, Gateway also sells wide-screen plasma and LCD televisions.

hpshopping.com
At this site, choose between **Hewlett-Packard-** and Compaq-branded desktop and notebook computers, plus networking accessories, printers, handhelds, and digital cameras.

hypersonic-pc.com
Need computing power that's faster than fast? Go hypersonic. Check out **Hypersonic PC** for gaming systems, workstations, and laptops outfitted with the latest high-performance peripherals. "Enthusiast options" include 3D-graphics optimization and case customization.

ibm.com/products
IBM's staid site sells business and home PCs, notebooks, servers, peripherals, and refurbished PCs. Build-to-order options allow buyers to customize a new system.

ibuypower.com
iBuypower's value build-to-order PCs start at $400. Even the company's least-expensive PCs include DDR RAM, large hard drives, USB 2.0, and other impressive specs. All are backed by a 30-day money-back guarantee and lifetime tech support.

idotpc.com
Choose a customized desktop, an economical bare-bones system, or a personalized laptop at **iDotpc.com.** If you're short on space, check out the diminutive iBox PCs. You'll also find a hearty selection of hardware and components.

maingear.com
MainGear specializes in premium PCs with cutting-edge specs for gamers and other power users. The selection includes sleek-looking and colorful desktops, space-saving X-Cube machines, and powerful laptops.

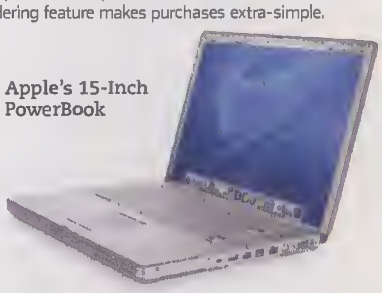
nutrend.com
Custom-configure a home or business desktop PC at **NuTrend Computer Products.** The company stocks machines running your choice of Intel or AMD CPUs. Each system comes with a three-year warranty.

sagernotebook.com
Specializing in notebook computers, **Sager** offers a variety of options, from budget machines to speedy multimedia units. Service includes a 72-hour repair-turnaround guarantee and free lifetime tech support.

shopprostar.com
Each computer in **ProStar Computer's** line of notebook PCs is backed by a 30-day money-back guarantee, a speedy-repair promise, and free tech support.

sonystyle.com/vaio
Sony Style is a sleek-looking site selling Sony's line of VAIO desktops and notebooks, plus digital cameras, displays, and storage devices.

store.apple.com
The **Apple Store's** well-designed site allows you to custom-configure any Macintosh, and offers a wide array of Mac-compatible software and accessories. For frequent (or compulsive) customers, the one-click-ordering feature makes purchases extra-simple.


Apple's 15-Inch PowerBook

us.fujitsu.com/shop
Fujitsu's site focuses on portable computing, including notebook PCs and pen-based tablet computers. Each computer includes several warranty options.

velocitymicro.com
Looking for a 64-bit processor to push your games to the limit? They're in **Velocity Micro's** Gamer's Edge and Raptor models. The custom-configuration menus offer a boggling array of component choices.

viciouspc.com
Creating "hardware for the hard-core," **Vicious PC** sells desktops with clear cases, high-output ventilation, easy-access sliding rails, and front-accessible USB ports. Washable air filters mean your computer's innards will remain dust-free.

voodoopc.com
Nobody else can do the voodoo that they do so well. **VoodooPC** specializes in high-end PCs for gamers, with a choice of Intel or 64-bit AMD processors. Take your pick from three tower systems, five laptops, and one portable—all thoroughly customizable, of course.

winbook.com
WinBook Computer sells notebooks with a 30-day money-back guarantee, a one-year warranty, and free tech support. Ironically, some of the best deals, the daily "Web specials," can only be ordered by phone.

>> SOFTWARE

academicsuperstore.com
If you can produce a student ID or school-faculty card, you qualify for big discounts on software at **Academic Superstore.** Each product-info page includes a chart that shows who qualifies for the discounted price. Shipping is free, and if you find a better deal elsewhere within 25 days, the store will match it.

atomicpark.com
AtomicPark.com is the bomb. The site's entire selection of business and productivity apps includes free shipping. Plus, you'll never pay a restocking fee.

MOBILE-PHONE ACCESSORIES

batteries4less.com
Need a battery that will last as long as you can talk? **Cellphone Battery Warehouse** sells replacement batteries that store much more juice than your phone's standard battery. Get a one-year warranty and a price-matching promise on every battery.

collectivegood.com
Americans will throw away 100 million cell phones by the end of this year. Instead of tossing that old phone in the trash, send it to **CollectiveGood International.** If it works, they'll give it to a charity of your choice. If not, they'll recycle it in an environmentally responsible manner.

factorydirectcellular.com
Holsters and cases and adapters, oh my! They're all at **Factory Direct Cellular,** which will ship orders over $49 for free, or smaller orders for a flat $5.95. With every battery you buy, the company will throw in a free antenna booster.

letstalk.com
Searching for a new wireless plan, perhaps one with a free phone? Talk to **LetsTalk,** which, given your ZIP code, will show the phone plans available in your area. You can also search for calling plans based on features and monthly usage.

mycoolcell.com
The products at **MyCoolCell.com** can help dress up your cell phone. Trendy accessories include faceplates, flashing keypads, and light-up batteries. The site sells more-useful fare, too, such as hands-free accessories, chargers, and batteries.

101cells.com
Trick out your phone or turn it into a professional work center at **101cells.com,** where you'll find flashy accessories, cases, hands-free headsets, and more. The emergency-charger key chain will provide a power boost when you really need it, and an adhesive flashlight will guarantee you're never caught in the dark.

bigclearance.com
Offering current-version software at clearance prices, the big selection at **BigClearance.com** includes wares from Microsoft, Macromedia, Corel, and others.

buycheapsoftware.com
The name says it all. **Buycheapsoftware.com's** selection consists primarily of business and utility applications. The company offers flat-rate $5 shipping on small orders and free shipping on orders over $200.

download.com
CNET Download.com will help you find shareware and free software, linking to thousands of programs for PC, Mac, and mobile devices. Well-written newsletters and down-to-earth reviews help you find the perfect program. (CNET Networks is *Computer Shopper's* parent company.)

ebgames.com
EBgames.com is a gamer's paradise, selling new and pre-owned titles for PCs and every game console under the sun. Check the Hot Deals list for short-lived discounts.

filebot.org
Buy software, download it, and get instant gratification with **FileBot.** This site sells a wide variety of audio apps, system utilities, business titles, and games. Free trial versions are available for many programs.

gamehippo.com
GameHippo.com provides more than a thousand absolutely free downloadable PC games. You'll find descriptions, ratings, and easy-to-read icons that show whether a game supports multiple players, a network, and so on. Check the Top 20 Rated Games to discover other players' favorites.

gamerang.com
For $15 per month, **Gamerang** will rent you one console video-game title at a time. You can swap games as often as you want, or keep a game for as long as it piques your interest. Shipping is free both ways.

gamespot.com
With game news, reviews, and cheat codes, **GameSpot** is a one-stop shop for PC and console gamers. Downloadable previews and a price-comparison tool will help you get good deals on games you'll love. (GameSpot is owned by CNET Networks, *Computer Shopper's* parent company.)

gamestop.com
GameStop.com is an elegant site that specializes in new and used games for consoles and PCs. Recent price drops, top sellers, and "just arrived" products are highlighted, so you'll always know the score.

gnu.org
Remember, GNU's Not Unix. **The Free Software Foundation** is synonymous with GNU, Unix-work-alike software for Linux. The Web site includes a directory of more than 2,000 free Linux applications, plus lots of online documentation—also free.

happypenguin.org
Get your game on with **The Linux Game Tome,** an index of more than 1,000 games for Linux, each with a screenshot and brief description. You can discuss the games on the site's forums or IRC channel.

happypuppy.com
Happy Puppy sniffs out games like a bloodhound. You can download files, read reviews, trade cheats, and talk about games with other fanatics. Patches and add-ons are available for hundreds of Windows games. If you had a tail, it would be wagging.

jumbo.com
Jumbo is a fitting name for this monstrous file archive, featuring shareware, freeware, and commercial-software demos for PC, Mac, and Linux.

nothingbutsoftware.com
You'll make much ado about **Nothing But Software.** This catalog of apps includes games, educational titles, graphics programs, utilities, and more—all with flat-rate shipping. Try the programs in the Bargains section for as little as $5.

palmgear.com
Palm OS users will appreciate the large selection of free and commercial programs downloadable from **PalmGear.com.** Check out the list of "essential" applications, then sign up to get software news and tips.

palmtown.com
You crave games for your Palm, and **Palm Town** has 'em. The site handpicks and recommends entertainment software for the Palm OS. Download free and shareware games, puzzles, and virtual pets.

pdfstore.com
The **PDF Store** specializes in software for creating Portable Document Format files, producing e-books, and simplifying printing jobs—a focused software selection for content creators.

pricebustersoftware.com
Who you gonna call? **PriceBuster Software,** that's who. The site sells applications and utilities from Corel, Macromedia, Microsoft, and other top-shelf publishers, with sensible shipping fees.

serverfiles.com
ServerFiles.com is a directory of Windows 2003, 2000, and NT server software. The listing includes network-security, collaboration, and server applications of interest to network and IT professionals.

simtel.net
For shareware, freeware, and public-domain downloads, look to **Simtel.net.** You'll find lots of apps for Windows, Mac, and PDA. Dr. File Finder's Picks and an e-mail newsletter will help you choose the best wares.

snapfiles.com
Download shareware and freeware in a snap with **SnapFiles.** This site will point you to the latest software releases and top-10 titles. The $19.95-per-year Pro version of the site adds e-mail software alerts, user ratings, and other features. Snap to it!

software-blowouts.com
Software Blowouts is home to oodles of inexpensive Windows and Mac OS software, with flat-rate shipping. Peruse the Blowouts page for education, entertainment, and utility titles, many for just $9.95.

softwareoutlet.com
Plug in to **SoftwareOutlet.com,** a veritable virtual bargain bin. You'll find dirt-cheap applications and hardware accessories. The selection includes older software and wares from defunct companies and some modern, mainstream titles, too.

softwarepatch.com
Beat cranky, misbehaving software into submission with help from **The Software Patch.** You can download patches, upgrades, service packs, and hardware drivers for Windows and the software that runs on it. Start at the Top Downloads area for the most-popular upgrades.

thefreesite.com/Free_Software/
The software section of **TheFreeSite.com** will point you to complimentary chat programs, text editors, Web authoring utilities, and much more. Too bad hard drives for storing it all aren't free, too.

tucows.com
Tucows is an incredible library of freeware and shareware for Windows, Mac, and Linux—plus other operating systems and PDAs. The category list and reviews make finding the software you seek a breeze. Plenty of local mirror sites keep downloads moo-ving.